APPLE PRICE MAY BE HIGHER IN 1955

Apple prices in Virginia in 1955 should hold their own, or perhaps rise slightly over their 1954 levels, say agricultural economists at VPI.

They point out that a smaller crop is expected in the leading producing states in the East. The general price level and consumer demand for apples should be about the same. No doubt more apples were processed in 1954 than the preceding year because of the large crops in the two largest processing areas (Appalachian and New York State) and because of salvage programs following hurrican damage in areas normally producing primarily for the fresh fruit market.

However, carry-over stock from the 1954 crop should not be burdensome on the 1955 crop as there was only a relatively small volume of canned stocks on hand at the beginning of the 1954 harvest season. At this time foreign demand for apples is still uncertain, but prospects for a sizeable volume of export trade in apples look brighter than for several years.

Demand for peaches for canning should pick up in 1955. Demand for fresh use also should hold up well. Under these conditions, peach prices are expected to average close to those of 1954 even though a slightly larger crop is likely. Virginia growers have been faced with increasing competition from certain northern states which have switched to earlier-maturing varieties during the past several years. This competition is likely to increase rather than decrease.

Preliminary indications point to total production of strawberries in the United States during 1955 as about the same as in 1954. Decreased production is predicted for the southern states, but production is expected to increase in other commercial producing areas. Prices received by Virginia growers should be slightly higher in 1955 than in 1954.

POISONOUS PLANTS FOUNO IN VIRGINIA

Having unindentified trouble with your livestock?

Maybe it's plant poisoning.

Professor A. B. Massey, botanist at VPI, says that each year stockmen and dairymen throughout Virginia lose stock, or suffer setbacks in production, because the animals eat poisonous or unwholesome plants.

Here is information on plant poisoning as outlined by Professor Massey:

Plant poisoning is localized, sporadic, and seasonal. Trouble comes more frequently in winter and early spring, when grass is scarce. In the winter the evergreen shrubs and herbaceous evergreens are likely to be browsed.

The most dangerous native evergreen shrubs in Virginia are mountain laurel, wicky, and the evergreen rhododendrons. Mountain laurel, also called ivybush, is common from the coast to the western tip of the state, but is most abundant in the upper Piedmont and mountains. As laurel is one of the most attractive native flowering shrubs, don't destroy it, but fence stock away from it when grass is scarce. Another species of laurel, called sheep laurel, lives in open swamps in the central plain. It also is very poisonous, but not as common.

Rhododendron contains much the same poison as mountain laurel. However, it is not as palatable and causes less trouble.

The highly prized box and the shrubby yews contain poison in their leaves and stems. These ornamental evergreens are not pasture problems unless they are thoughtlessly planted by the pasture or barnyard fence, or clippings are thrown where domestic stock can get them.

Caper's spurge, or sassy Jack has become naturalized in parts of Southwest Virginia. Sheep, particularly, eat it readily. The leaves are narrow, pointed, and dark green in color, with a white line running the length through the center. If you see sassy Jack pull it up and destroy it.

Cypress spurge is also a species which has become naturalized in Southwest Virginia. When it becomes established in pasture sod it can be dangerous.

Professor Massey has recently published a bulletin outlining poisonous plants found in Virginia and how to control them. Ask your county agent for a free copy of "Poisonous Plants," Bulletin 222.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year payable in advance.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

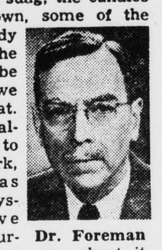
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1--5; 12.
Devotional Reading: Job 28:20-28.

The Day After

Lesson for December 26, 1954


Dr. Foreman

THE day after Christmas lets us down with a thud. So does the day after any great occasion. The songs have been sung, the candles have burned down, some of the toys have already been broken, the dishes have to be washed . . . we feel tired and flat. For some, it is almost a relief to get back to work, with Christmas "out of our system." Now we should not be surprised at this, nor cry about it. After the Mount of Transfiguration comes a sick boy in a dusty valley. After every high day comes a long string of low days. Religion, the religion of the Bible is not a thing intended only for Sundays and holidays. It is religion for the clammy day after.

The Old Counselor

There is one book in the Old Testament which many readers find hard to understand, more than any other. It hardly seems to fit in with the rest of the Bible. Where other writers sing, this one just talks. Where other writers soar into the heavens, this one considers heaven to be so far away that it is not worth while to talk about it. Where other Bible writers are full of hope and optimism, this one is gloomy to his very bones. He could well be called the Philosopher of the Morning After. We have to remember one or two things about "Ecclesiastes" as the writer is not too appropriately called. He is not what we would call a "preacher" for that is what the name Ecclesiastes means. He is more like a columnist, a giver of advice, a counselor. He is not a Christian, and so we must not expect that he will come up to the height from which a Christian sees life. He is an old man, and has "had everything" except happiness. He is not a complete cynic,—that is to say, there are some things in which he does believe. But his beliefs are held, so to speak, under a cloudy sky. It is a wonderful thing that in the Providence of God this book was included in our Bible, for it gives us just what we need when we too are let-down on some dark day after Christmas. The old counselor catches us on the rebound and gives us, if we will listen, some unexciting and perhaps unhopeful but still useful advice for our Days After.

Dead End Streets

The favorite refrain of the Old Counselor is "Vanity of Vanities." Emptiness of Emptiness—life to him is like one of these nests of boxes sometimes seen on the toy counters: you open the big one and find one not quite so big You open that and it holds a slightly smaller one . . . and so on till you come to the tiniest box of all. Must be a diamond?— No, you open it and it's full of Nothing. So this old man who had had plenty of money and nothing to stop him, went first after one thing and then after another, but he never found happiness. All is Vanity and a Striving after Wind. You can't catch the wind and if you could, so what? He sees nothing in wealth, nothing in pleasure, nothing in learning, nothing in love. Being, as was said, no Christian, he sees nothing even in the next life to lure him on. Beyond this world he sees only "no work, nor device, nor wisdom, nor knowledge, in the grave, whither thou goest." (9:10).

But Life Must Go On

Nevertheless, even this gloomy and disillusioned man finds some things in life in which he does believe. He believes in work for work's sake. He knows all human works perish; he knows a man's best work may be unappreciated and unpaid; but still "there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his works" (3:22). A good thought for the day we have to get back to work! Then he believes in enjoying God's gifts as they come; in sharing what we have: "Give a portion to seven, yea, even unto eight" (11:2). But under and through all, he believes in obedience to God. It is true, this old counselor did not know God as Christians have known him. He had lacked the experiences of suffering, and of love, and of the forgiveness of sin. Still, even with his clouded vision, even thinking as he did of God as far away and mysterious, he knows God has given man certain laws to live by; he knows that it is at least right to do right. "Fear God and keep his commandments" is his last word.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

AHS Newscast

By Jane Holt

December 22, 1954

Dear June,

We've been out of school now one day. This last week has really been a merry-go-round for most of us. Friday night we had our first basketball game and was it great' Appomattox played Marshall District and we won both games. The girls won 72-36 with Edna Gregory and I leading the team with 28 points each. Everyone played so well! The boys, led by "Boots" Carter with 17 points won over Marshall District. Monday night we journed to Randolph-Henry High School, where both teams met defeat. The boys game was particularly exciting. The final score was 28-30. Playing Brookville tonight, we hope to get back to winning and keep up the record throughout the entire season. Thursday night we play the Alumni, which I know will be most thrilling. We've got to beat you! May the best team win—huh? Wednesday the Senior Music Club, F.H.A., F.F.A. and Jr. Science clubs met. This finished up our club program for '54. [...] have been parties and all ki[...] Christmas doings this week. [...] really enjoyed it. Isn't Chr[...] just great anyway. Tuesday [...] Christmas Pageant was presen[...] was quite beautiful. This i[...] event we look forward to each[...] I hope everyone has a really [...] Christmas and remembers to [...] ter Christmas around Christ, [...] such a joyous occasion. Thi[...] end my series of letters to y[...] year. However, I will start [...] again in '55. Here's wishing y[...] everyone, who reads this colu[...] very Merry Christmas and a [...] New Year.

'Til then,
Jane.

LIONS CLUB TONIGHT

The regular meeting of the [...]mattox Lions Club will be he[...] night at 6:45 at Maud's Hot[...]

Dial 2811 with Personals.

[...]H. S. Basketball Teams To Play Alumni Tonight

[...]omattox Blue Hornets [...] strong Alumni team, [...]f former stars of A. H. [...]ew gymnasium here on [...]ight. Game time is 7:30

[...] the former players expected to be here are: Bill Jamerson, Clarence White, Ottoway Guill, J. T. Guill, Bill Runkle, Earl Agee, J. P. Harvey, Ray Wingfield, Calvin Tanner, Sam Ferguson, Harry Lawson and others. Any alumnus not mentioned above is invited to come out and join in the fun.

The girls alumna team will include Barbara Cawthorne, Barbara Almond, Stella Thomas, Nina Barlow, Betty Faye Burks, Ann Goad, Sara Irving, B. Totty, June Holt, Virginia Chandler, Peggy Cole, Loretta Doss, and any others who can join the team.

This game should be a Christmas present for the former stars, who had hoped for a gymnasium, and now can see the dream come true. The new gym has been made available just in time for Christmas.

The Blue Hornets won the first game played in the new gym last Thursday night, tallying a 78 to 37 victory over Marshall District High School. High scorers for A. H. S. were: Robert Carter, 17 points Teddy Mitchell, 14; Jerry George 14; John Rothgeb, 14, and Garland Doss, 8.

A. H. S. girls won over Marshall District girls, 68 to 34. Edna Gregory scored 28 points and June Holt also had 28 points, to tie for top honors.

Coaches Gordon Bragg and Mrs. Louise Brown anticipate a large crowd tonight for the alumni tilt.

Evergreen

Evergreen, Dec. 21.- Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Paulette are spending several days at New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clapp and daughter, Sylvia, of Richmond visited relatives here last week-end.

Mr. Ernest Farrar was at Charlottesville last week for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Harvey were dinner guests Saturday evening of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Bruce and family and Mr. M. L. Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lapage and son, of Missouri are visiting her relatives for the holidays.

Mrs. T. E. LeGrand and Mrs. Stanley Hubbard, of Petersburg, spent the week-end in the home of A. A. LeGrande and family.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Thompson, of Lynchburg spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Glover.

Pfc. Albert Harvey, of Panama is home on a 30-day furlough with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Harvey.

Mrs. C. J. Ferguson is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lucado and family, of Lynchburg.

Pfc. J. P. Harvey Jr. is spending the week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J P Harvey, Sr.

Mrs. S. R. Paulette and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Paulette were visiting relatives in Lynchburg on Sunday P. M.

Our community was shocked to hear of the automobile accident of Mrs. Dorothy Blythe near Gordonsville last week-end, and hopes she will soon be back with us. Mrs. Z. E. Cheatham is substituting at school for her.

Quite a number gathered at the Baptist Church Sunday afternoon for the ordination service of Robert Harris.

Burke Paulette is visiting his sister, Mrs. John Krouse, in Florida.

Pamplin

Pamplin, Dec. 21.- Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Parsons and children, of Richmond spent last Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Pankey.

William Swan, of Newport News is visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. McClenny.

Mrs. Nell Van Haase and daughters, Linda Sue and Dianne, of Detroit, Mich., spent several days last week in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Payne.

Miss Mildred Slayton, of Richmond spent last week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Slayton.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Guthery, of Lynchburg were week-end visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Davis.

Rev. and Mrs. F. L. Pankey and sons, of Mosely were visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Pankey last Wednesday.

The B. T. U. of Elon Baptist Church gave a pageant on Sunday night. There was a good attendance and special music was rendered.

An ideal Christmas gift—one for the family! Give a subscription to The Times - Virginian. Fifty-two weeks for home town news, and the cost is only $2.00.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
May the Lord Bless and Keep You Through the Coming Year
H. C. Babcock's Store
Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Murphy
Clarence Guthrie

May your holidays be rich in the pleasant memories of friendships that have lasted through the year . . . and may the inspiration of the spirit of the season be with you throughout a new year of increasing health, happiness and prosperity.
M. W. Drinkard's Store
Melvin and Alise Drinkard
OAKVILLE, VIRGINIA

We're sending our Best Wishes for a happy holiday . . . and may every good thing come your way!
Appomattox Truck & Tractor Inc.
Appomattox, Virginia

The words may be old fashioned but the wish sincere and new . . . best wishes for the very happiest of holidays!
Jamerson's Bowling Alley
Appomattox, Virginia

We'd like to join the chorus wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
McGEHEE'S
Lynchburg, Virginia

May we extend to you our warmest of wishes for a Merry Yuletide and a Happy New Year . . . may every hour be filled with good cheer!
[...]nge's Department Store
Appomattox, Virginia

Merry Christmas
As another year passes we realize how important your friendship and goodwill have been to our success.
We appreciate the opportunity the Holiday Season brings to say "Thank You" and wish you
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SCHEWEL
Lynchburg's Largest & Most Popular Furniture Store
Lynchburg, Virginia

We'd like to tell all our good friends with whom we worked this past year . . . Thank You for your cooperation and patronage and Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas!
Coleman's Feed & Seed Store
Appomattox, Virginia

Planters Warehouse
"We Aprpeciate Your Patronage"
JOEL WATKINS JOEL WATKINS, JR.
Farmville, Virginia